

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method to enable tracking of a network device capable of
2 communicating over a network, comprising:
3 receiving information identifying a user over the network;
4 receiving an asset identifier of the network device associated with the
5 user; and
6 associating the user identifying information with the asset identifier.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the user identifying information
2 comprises receiving user login information.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the asset identifier comprises
2 receiving at least one of an asset tag, an identifier of a processor in the network device,
3 and a serial number of the network device.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the associated user
2 identifying information and asset identifier in a table.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising receiving a request to track the
2 network device and accessing the table to extract one of the asset identifier or the user
3 identifying information.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the table contains plural asset identifiers
2 associated with plural network devices, and wherein accessing the table comprises
3 accessing the table to extract one of the plural asset identifiers.
- 1 7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 receiving information identifying a second user;
3 receiving an asset identifier of a second network device associated with
4 the second user;

5 associating the second user identifying information and the second
6 network device asset identifier; and
7 storing the second user identifying information and the second network
8 device asset identifier in the table.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the asset identifier comprises
2 receiving the asset identifier from a database in a management server.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the asset identifier comprises
2 receiving the asset identifier from the network device.

1 10. A system for use on a network, comprising:
2 a storage unit containing a table storing asset identifiers of network
3 devices and information identifying users of the network devices; and
4 a controller adapted to update the table when users log onto the network.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the user identifying information
2 comprises login information of each user.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the controller is adapted to receive an
2 asset identifier of a network device associated with each user during a login procedure.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the controller is adapted to store a time
2 indication in the table to represent time of usage of a network device by each user.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the time indication comprises a time
2 stamp created during a login procedure by each user.

1 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the asset identifier comprises at least one
2 of an asset tag, an identifier of a processor in the network device, and a serial number of
3 the network device.

1 16. The system of claim 10, wherein the controller is adapted to further
2 receive a request containing an asset identifier and to extract user identifying information
3 associated with the asset identifier in response to the request.

1 17. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions
2 that when executed cause a system to:
3 receive information identifying a user over the network;
4 receive an asset identifier of the network device associated with the user;
5 and
6 associate the user identifying information with the asset identifier.

1 18. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 system to further associate the user identifying information with network access time and
3 date information.

1 19. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 system to further store the associated user identifying information and asset identifier in a
3 table.

1 20. The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 system to further store plural user identifying information and asset identifiers in the
3 table.

1 21. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 system to receive the user identifying information during a login procedure.

1 22. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and containing instructions that
2 when executed cause a system to:

3 store, in a storage device, asset identifiers of network devices and
4 associated information identifying users of the network devices;

5 receive, from a node, a request for identifying a user of a first network
6 device; and

1 communicate the user identifying information associated with the first
2 network device to the node.

1 23. The data signal of claim 22, wherein the instructions when executed cause
2 the system to use an asset identifier contained in the request to access the storage device
3 to extract the user identifying information.

1 24. The data signal of claim 22, wherein the instructions when executed cause
2 the system to store the asset identifiers and user identifying information in a table in the
3 storage device and to communicate the table to the node in response to the request.